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OLC 71-2009

16 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Representative Lucien Nedzi

1. This afternoon I met with Chairman Lucien Nedzi, CIA Subcommittee of House Armed Services, and provided him an unclassified version of our paper on the changes in the intelligence community. He found this of some value but inquired about documentation from official directives. He said he didn't intend a "swashbuckling" approach to the problem and didn't want to create a confrontation but felt he had to have authoritative details in order to discharge his oversight responsibilities. He said he couldn't approve changes in, or appropriations for, the intelligence community without knowing what was going on. I said I appreciated his problem, that such problems had come up before with out Subcommittees, and that we had found ways of working them out, but the only documents I knew of were highly classified White House documents issued by or in the name of the President and we had no authority to release them. I suggested that I would try to answer any questions he had on the subject and we went over the old and new arrangements concerning USIB and other National Security Council Committees or Subcommittees and the Net Assessment Group.

2. Chairman Nedzi said one thing he wanted to be very clear on were any changes in the senior personnel, or their responsibilities in the intelligence structure. I said that so far as committee membership was concerned a Treasury representative was added to USIB and that the membership of the NSCIC would include Under Secretary of State, Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Dr. Kissinger, the Director of Central Intelligence and the Attorney General; that the Intelligence Resources Advisory Committee would include representatives from State, Defense, OMB and CIA; and I didn't know about the composition of the Net Assessment Group, which was actually not and never had been a part of the intelligence community.


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Mr. Nedzi said Secretary Laird had stated that it previously was a part of the intelligence community, and suggested I check his testimony which I said I would do. So far as the Director was concerned, I assured Mr. Nedzi that he would continue his direction of the CIA in all important respects, and there was no question of his delegating ultimate authority over the Agency to anyone.

3. I suggested that his further questions could best be answered by the Director himself. He said this would probably be a good idea but in view of the fact that he "felt a little better" about the matter as a result of our discussion, we might let things go for a week or two until they settle down a bit. I said I was sure the Director would be glad to meet with either him or with the Subcommittees at their convenience. Mr. Nedzi said that in the meantime he had no further requirements from us, except he might like some sort of a chart making clear the old and new intelligence community organization and relationships. I said I would see what we could do.

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